

1999 REPORT ON IPM DEMONSTRATION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR CHRISTMAS TREE GROWERS

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Introduction: The Christmas tree industry in Dutchess County is strong and growing. The 1998 Christmas tree season proved to be a successful one for growers with many being sold out of trees the weekend before the holidays. There are approximately 30 growers in Dutchess County with a total of about 500 acres planted to trees. The types of trees grown include: white spruce, Douglas fir, Balsam fir, Fraser fir, concolor fir, Canaan fir, scotch pine, serbian spruce and other specialty varieties. Farms vary in size from five acres to forty acres per farm. About 25% are full time growers, and 75% are part time growers. Approximately 50% of the growers also grow other crops (i.e. roadside vegetables, greenhouse bedding plants, nursery stock, etc.) Total value of the industry in Dutchess County is estimated to be in excess \$5,000,000. Christmas tree growers who incorporate integrated pest management practices into reducing the amount of money spent on pesticides. Dutchess County as become a suburban county. Once, rolling hills of pasture and other farmland have given way to housing developments. Growers are constantly faced with challenges when it comes to pest management and public perception of these practices. The impact of insects, diseases, and weed pests on Dutchess County's Christmas tree crop is believed to be quite substantial.

In 1999 five Dutchess County growers participated in the adoption of IPM through the implementation of a scouting and monitoring program. Growers worked with a scout on a regular basis and with specialist and lead educator on a periodic basis to learn the methodology of Christmas tree IPM and to jointly explore alternative solutions to their pest management needs.

For a printed copy of the entire report, please contact the NYS IPM office at:

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